

NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT
1970



J. M. V. PACKER. (Medical Officer of Health)
L. M. BOOTH (Chief Public Health Inspector)

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J. M. V. PACKER

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

L. M. BOOTH

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CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

I N D E X

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
Health Committee	1
Staff	2
Report of the Medical Officer of Health	3- 15
Vital Statistics	6- 7
Causes of Death & Age Groups	8- 9
Laboratory, Hospital & Executive Council Services	10
County Council, Ambulance & Midwifery	11
Health Visiting & District Nurse	12
Vaccination, Home Help & Mental Health	13
Welfare Service	14
Prevention of illness-Care & After-care, Children's Dept.	15
Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector	16- 35
Housing	17- 21
Refuse Collection & Disposal, Salvage	22
Clean Air	23
Public Conveniences, Sewerage & Sanitary Accommodation	24
Rodent Control	25- 26
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963	27
Pet Shops	28
Factories	28- 30
Water Supply	31
Food Hygiene	32
Food & Drugs Act 1955	33- 35

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH & WATER COMMITTEE

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. N. KERSHAW, J.P.,C.C.

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR R. H. KNIGHT.

Members:

COUNCILLOR T. CHISNALL

" C.S.CLUBB

" H.J.DONOVAN

" E.KERSHAW

" G.ROBERTS

" R.VALE

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

R. ELLIS JONES, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H. (Retired 13/9/70)

J. M. V. PACKER, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H. (Appointed 14/9/70)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

L. M. BOOTH, M.R.S.H.,M.A.P.H.I. (Retired 31/12/70)

Additional Public Health Inspector:

G. SENIOR, M.R.S.H.,M.A.P.H.I.

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

J. GWATKINS.

Technical Assistant:

H. GLOVER.

Clerk/Typist:

MRS. E. M. GOLDSACK.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area	3,103 statute acres
Population	22,150 Estimated mid-1970
	21,768 Census 1961
Number of Inhabited Houses, Census 1961	7,200
Number of Inhabited Houses, Estimated 1970	7,698
Rateable Value	£764,829
Sum represented by 1d rate	£7,462

The major portion of the district is truly urban in character, with a relatively small acreage of rural character. It is built up with dwelling houses, with Shops, Offices, Workshops, Factories, Churches, Mission Halls, Clubs, Hotels, and all the usual ancillary buildings which serve a civilised community. The main industries are Light and Heavy Engineering, including Sugar Refining, Printing and Stationery manufacture, and Raincoat manufacture. As would be expected from the urban character of the district, agriculture plays only a very minor role of its activities.



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NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS U.D.C.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1 9 7 0

P R E F A C E

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Newton-le-Willows for the year ended December, 1970, together with the vital statistics for that year.

My predecessor Dr. R. Ellis Jones was in office until September when he left to take up an appointment as consultant psychiatrist at Newchurch Hospital, Culcheth.

The number of births was 376, a decrease of 12 on the number for 1969. The adjusted live birth rate fell from 17.6 per thousand population to 17.2, the figure for England and Wales being 16.0. Illegitimate births number 33, 9% of the total live births. This was an increase on 1969 when the number was 29, 6.9% of the total but comparable to 1968 when the number was 34, 8.5% of the total. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 8%. There were 10 deaths of infants under one year of age, six of which occurred in the first week of life. This was an increase on 1969 when there were six infant deaths. The infant mortality rate for 1970 was 27 per thousand live births, compared with 15 per thousand in 1969. For comparison, the rate for the Lancashire Administration County area was 19.8 per thousand in 1970 and 19.3 per thousand in 1969. The rate for England and Wales was 18 per thousand in both years. When one is dealing with very small numbers as in this instance, there is liable to be a fluctuation in figures from year to year and no conclusions can be drawn from this increase in infant deaths, unwelcome though it is. Three still births were recorded. The perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week of age per thousand total births) was 24.

For the seventh successive year, no death was attributable to child birth.

The total number of deaths was 328 (264 in 1969) giving a 'crude' death rate of 14.8 per thousand population. The adjusted death rate (used for comparison with other areas) was 16.9. The adjusted death rate for the Lancashire Administrative County area was 13.6 and the rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

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The leading cause of death was ischaemic heart disease (coronary disease) which accounted for 105 deaths (59 males, 46 females). This was a considerable increase on the figure of 69 deaths from this cause recorded in the previous year. Deaths from all forms of cancer numbered 42 (29 males, 13 females) of which 12 deaths (11 males, 1 female) were due to lung cancer. Cerebro vascular lesions (strokes) numbered 41. There were 18 deaths due to pneumonia and 19 due to bronchitis and emphysema. It is gratifying to be able to record that we have now reached the stage at which no deaths were recorded due to tuberculosis.

By far the most prevalent infectious disease occurring during the year was measles of which 519 cases were notified. In his Annual Report for 1968, Dr. Ellis Jones expressed the hope that he had recorded the last major epidemic of the disease in the town due to the fact that vaccination against measles had become available. Unfortunately, the measles vaccination programme received a set-back when the vaccine produced by one manufacturer had to be withdrawn during 1969. It needs to be emphasised that the measles vaccine is still available and is proving a safe and effective measure against this common childhood disease. Every effort is being made to encourage mothers to bring their young children to doctor's surgeries and to the clinics so that they may be vaccinated.

Towards the end of the year, the Council resolved to make 50 houses available each year for rehousing families from clearance areas. In my opinion this decision will make a considerable contribution to the health and well-being of many of the citizens in that it will enable the programme of clearance of unfit houses to be accelerated. Soon after I took up my duties it became apparent to me that there is a great deal of poor housing in this district, some of which is capable of improvement and every endeavour is being made to bring about improvement where possible, but much of it is capable of being dealt with adequately only by demolition.

The other major environmental matter affecting the health to which the council would do well to give their attention, is the introduction of smoke control areas in order to reduce the pollution of the atmosphere. This matter is commented upon further in the body of the report.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to members of the Council for their welcome to me and for their interest in matters affecting the health of the public. Mr. Booth who has served the Council for many years as Chief Public Health Inspector retired at the end of the year. It was a pleasure for me to work with him for the first few months after my arrival in the area and I should like to record my appreciation to him for his help during this period. I know that his long service to the council was greatly appreciated by the members and also by the public at large, and everyone will join me in recording our best wishes to him for many years of well earned happy retirement.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. M. V. PACKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE 1
VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1970

	Newton-le-Willows		England & Wales	
	Males	Females	Total	(Total)
Estimated mid-year home population	-	-	22.150	48,987,700
LIVE BIRTHS:				
Total	200	176	376	784,482
Legitimate	179	164	343	719,738
Illegitimate	21	12	33	64,744
STILLBIRTHS:				
Total	-	3	3	10,341
Legitimate	-	3	3	9,297
Illegitimate	-	-	-	1,044
TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS:				
Total	200	179	379	794,823
Legitimate	179	167	346	729,035
Illegitimate	21	12	33	65,788
DEATHS OF INFANTS:				
Under 1 year of age.				
Total	3	7	10	14,269
Legitimate	3	6	9	12,592
Illegitimate	-	1	1	1,677
Under 4 weeks of age.				
Total	2	6	8	9,663
Legitimate	2	5	7	8,548
Illegitimate	-	1	1	1,115
Under 1 week of age.				
Total	-	6	6	8,328
Legitimate	-	5	5	7,343
Illegitimate	-	1	1	985
DEATHS - ALL AGES:	185	143	328	575,208

TABLE 1 Cont'd.
VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1970

	Newton-le- Willows	England & Wales
LIVE BIRTH RATES, etc.:		
Livebirths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	17.0	16.0
Area comparability factor	1.01	1.00
Local adjusted rate	17.2	16.0
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.07	1.00
Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births	9	8
STILLBIRTH RATE:		
Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and still births	8	13
INFANT MORTALITY RATES:		
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	27	18
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	26	17
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	30	26
NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:		
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	21	12
EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:		
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	16	11
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE:		
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births	24	23
DEATH RATES, etc. - ALL AGES:		
Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	14.8	11.7
Area comparability factor	1.14	1.00
Local adjusted rate	16.9	11.7
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.44	1.00

TABLE 2
CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	2	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	2	1
" " Stomach	8	-
" " Intestine	4	6
" " Larynx	1	2
" " Lung, Bronchus	11	1
" " Breast	-	2
" " Uterus	-	1
" " Prostate	3	-
Leukaemia	1	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	7	8
Diabetes Mellitus	-	3
Avitaminoses, Etc.	-	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	2
Multiple Sclerosis	1	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	2
Hypertensive Disease	5	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	59	46
Other forms of Heart Disease	4	10
Cerebrovascular Disease	25	16
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	7
Influenza	4	1
Pneumonia	8	10
Bronchitis and Emphysema	14	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	1
Peptic Ulcer	3	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour Etc.	-	3
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	2
All other Accidents	5	3
All other external causes	1	-
 <u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	 <u>185</u>	 <u>143</u>

TABLE 3
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1970.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Total cases at all ages	AGE PERIODS - YEARS										Age un- known	
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 & over			
Measles (excluding rubella)	519	27	59	89	75	67	191	3	2	-	6		
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-		
Scarlet Fever	9	-	-	2	3	-	2	2	-	-	-		
Diphtheria	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Acute meningitis	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Acute poliomyelitis paralytic	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Non-paralytic	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		0-	5-		15-		45-		65 & over		Age un- known		
Acute encephalitis													
Infective	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Post-infectious	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Leptospirosis	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Paratyphoid fever	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Typhoid fever	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Food poisoning	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		0-	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-
Tetanus	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective													
Jaundice	31	-	-	1	14	3	4	2	6	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis-													
Respiratory	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meninges and C.N.S.	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	5	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	Nil											
Ophthalmia neonatorum	Nil											
Anthrax	Nil											
Yellow fever	Nil											

PROVISION OF GENERAL HEALTH AND ANCILLARY SERVICES

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS

Public Health Laboratory Service and County Analyst's Department

Pathological specimens for bacteriological analysis may be dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. Samples of food and drugs for analysis are submitted to the County Analyst's Department at Preston.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

(Liverpool Regional Hospital Board: Warrington and District H.M.C. and
Winwick and Newchurch H.M.C.)

The only hospital situated within the boundaries of the Urban District is the Newton Cottage Hospital in Bradlegh Road which has a limited number of in-patient beds and provides a range of out-patient clinics covering most of the commoner specialties. A full range of the services normally to be found in a district general hospital is provided at the Warrington Infirmary and Warrington General Hospital, to which many Newton patients are admitted. The Victoria Park Maternity Home at Latchford, Warrington, accommodates some of the more straightforward maternity cases, thus supplementing the main obstetric unit at the General Hospital. A proportion of medical, surgical, and obstetric cases are referred, for various reasons, to hospitals in nearby districts such as St. Helens, Whiston and Billinge and some to Liverpool and Manchester.

Patients requiring in-patient treatment for tuberculosis are admitted mainly to Eccleston Hall; out-patient sessions are held by the Chest Physician at Warrington General Hospital.

Facilities for the treatment of psychiatric illnesses are centred on Winwick Hospital, and for mental subnormality at Newchurch Hospital, Culcheth.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SERVICES

The family doctor service and the general dental, pharmaceutical and ophthalmic services are the responsibility of the Lancashire Executive Council, 42 West Cliff, Preston.

COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

The Lancashire County Council is the Local Health Authority, and the day to day administration of the wide range of services which it provides in this area is in the hands of Divisional Health Committee No. 10.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

All vehicles in the Lancashire County Council ambulance service are under radio control, and all services in the Division are controlled by staff at the area ambulance headquarters at Whiston. Vehicles from other stations can be brought in easily because of the radio contact when necessary.

This service deals with all types of cases where such transport is required by reason of illness (including mental illness or mental sub-normality), whether accident, other emergency, general illness or infectious disease. In cases of emergency any person having reason to do so may summon an ambulance, and the emergency service number '999' should be used. In other cases the calls for this service are made either by a doctor, dentist, midwife, nurse or other duly qualified person, who can call Whiston headquarters, telephone number 051-426-5222.

Five stretcher-carrying ambulance vehicles and three "Sitting case" cars are stationed at the Ambulance Station, Silverdale Road, Newton-le-Willows and manned by an appropriate staff, all qualified in First Aid.

MIDWIFERY

Whole-time domiciliary midwives are engaged on this work within the Newton-le-Willows District in the employ of the County Council, which is both the Local Health Authority and Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act. These nurses normally accept responsibility for cases residing within reasonable proximity of their homes, but the principle of the expectant mother's free choice of midwife (as of doctor), is well established. Each has a car at her disposal to enable her to respond quickly to urgent calls and to carry apparatus for analgesia.

Mrs. A. Grace, 13 Norcott Drive, Burtonwood.
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 6410

Miss B. E. Lloyd, 73 Common Road, Newton-le-Willows.
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 6379

Mrs. F. Stanier, 144 Common Road, Newton-le-Willows.
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 4778

HEALTH VISITING

A Health Visitor is a State Registered Nurse who has received at least a course of training in midwifery and undertaken a year of special training in preventive medicine (especially early detection of handicaps), health education, and social work. Although in much of her work she is concerned with mothers and children, her duties are by no means confined to these members of the family. In recent years the Health Visitor has worked increasingly with adults, particularly the elderly.

A substantial part of the Health Visitor's time is spent in connection with the School Health Service undertaking the duties of a School Nurse. If a Health Visitor has the aptitude she may undertake teaching of classes in health education and mothercraft subjects which are included in the school curriculum.

Hitherto each Health Visitor has worked in a defined geographical area, but the current trend is to make the Health Visitor's caseload the patients registered with one or more family doctors and to arrange for the Health Visitor to have frequent contact with the doctors.

The Health Visitors employed in this District are based at "The Gables" Clinic, Crow Lane West, Newton-le-Willows.

DISTRICT NURSING

An "attachment" scheme is now in operation by which district nursing sisters take their patients according to the medical practice to which they are attached and not according to a geographical district as before. District nurses of the S.E.N. grade and nursing auxiliaries are also employed to work under the supervision of the nursing sisters; in this scheme nursing sisters and general medical practitioners work closely together with full consultation so that the skill of the specially trained nurse can be properly employed.

The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Nursing Sisters are:

Miss M. Littler, 69 Oak Avenue, Newton-le-Willows.
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 5646.

Mrs. Platt, 8 Irwin Road, Sutton, St. Helens.
Telephone: St. Helens 27992

Mrs. M. J. Harles, 42 Bradlegh Road, Newton-le-Willows.
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 5665.

Mrs. Gatley, 10 Troutbeck Grove, Moss Bank, St. Helens.
Telephone: St. Helens 29100.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Facilities are provided both by the County Council and by family doctors for giving protection against smallpox, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, and german measles. Certain other immunisations, e.g. against typhoid fever, may be given by family doctors when required. The B.C.G. injection against tuberculosis is given by the School Health Service and by the staff of Chest Clinics.

HOME HELP SERVICE

This permissive service is available under the Lancashire County Council Divisional Health Scheme (No.10 Health Division), to homes requiring such assistance by reason of the presence in the household of a case of sickness (including mental illness and deficiency); advanced pregnancy, a parturient woman, an aged person or a child under school leaving age.

The service is not a free one; contributions must be made by the applicants towards the cost of provision in accordance with scales adopted by the County Council. Many applicants are, however, old age pensioners in straightened circumstances whose incomes are below the minimum prescribed by the scales, who therefore receive this help free of cost.

MENTAL HEALTH

Social work help and statutory action under the provisions of the Mental Health Act, 1959 for persons suffering from mental illness or subnormality is provided by a team of four Mental Welfare Officers based at the Divisional Health Office, Winwick (telephone no. Warrington 37444). Any request for the services of a Mental Welfare Officer outside normal office hours should be made through the Ambulance Control Centre at Whiston (telephone no. 051-426-5222) which will contact the duty officer on call.

A Junior Training Centre for 120 mentally handicapped children and an adjacent hostel for 25 children are situated at Mill Lane, Newton-le-Willows, and an Adult Training Centre for 45 subnormal men and women and a hostel accommodating 27 residents are located at Grange Road, Haydock. Another Adult Training Centre and Hostel are in course of erection in Golborne.

WELFARE SERVICES

The County Council is the Authority responsible for implementing Parts III and IV of the National Assistance Act, 1948 and related legislation. Broadly speaking, these services provide for the elderly, the handicapped, and the homeless. As is the case with the services already mentioned, the day to day administration of the Welfare Services is in the hands of Divisional Health Committee No.10. The Divisional Medical Officer has on his staff a Divisional Welfare Organiser who leads a team of four Social Welfare Officers and two Welfare Assistants.

The County Council's scheme utilises very fully the various voluntary agencies, including the Old People's Welfare Committee which provide an excellent means of fostering liaison between the statutory and voluntary bodies concerned with the care of the aged. Either directly or through the voluntary agencies the County Council makes provision to meet a wide range of needs of aged and handicapped persons, including provision of counselling, social club, luncheon clubs and "meals on wheels", training facilities, home and workshop employment, occupational therapy and holidays.

Accommodation is provided for those of the aged population no longer able to live an independent existence in their own homes, even with the maximum help from the domiciliary services. The Homes in this Division are Golborne House, Golborne (which accommodates 50 residents), Heathside, Penketh (50 residents), Heyescroft, Haydock (51 residents), and Larchfields, Newton-le-Willows (51 residents). Day care and short term care are also provided at each of these Homes. Residential accommodation, including short term care, for the handicapped is provided elsewhere in the County (at Swinton and Fleetwood).

One of the most useful developments in recent years has been that of warden - supervised bungalows or flatlets for elderly persons and, when necessary, the handicapped. These afford the privacy and the stimulus associated with a person having his or her own home, whilst at the same time providing the security deriving from the presence of a responsible person who "keeps an eye" on the resident and can send for help if it should be required.

Temporary accommodation is provided at Farnworth and Trafford Park for families who become homeless for reasons which could not reasonably have been foreseen.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

The scope of these arrangements is very wide and includes health education, health visiting in the homes including those of persons suffering from tuberculosis, the provision of ancillary nursing equipment, the after-care of patients who have suffered from illness either at home or in hospital, and the provision of convalescent accommodation. It also includes the provision of a chiropody service available to the elderly (aged 65 or over), registered handicapped persons, and expectant mothers.

Further information about all of the foregoing services may be obtained from the Divisional Medical Officer, Divisional Health Office, Winwick (telephone Warrington 37444).

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The responsibilities of the County Council under the Children Act and Children and Young Persons Acts are carried out by the Children's Committee through the Children's Officer. Locally, Area Children's Committee No.11 is responsible for the day to day operation of the service. The Area Children's Officer is Mr. W. Ritchie, Williams Deacon's Bank Chambers, Market Street, Leigh (telephone Leigh 74121).

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1970

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the environmental health of the Urban District.

For the whole of the year 1970 your previous Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. L. M. Booth was responsible for the administration of the Department, but it falls to my lot to write this Annual Report. I regret that I cannot yet speak with the local knowledge accrued by Mr. L. M. Booth. Coming to Newton-le-Willows in 1935, Mr. L. M. Booth has left his imprint on many facets of public health and I am sure that the town will wish him well during his well earned retirement.

I acknowledge the help given by the Chairman and members of Health Committee, and the loyal co-operation of the Staff of the Health Department.

C. L. GARSIDE,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Clearance of Unfit Houses

In 1970 as in previous years, much of the Department's work was concerned with the improvement of housing conditions; this is to be expected in a town in which a third of the population lives in sub-standard houses.

The building of new houses by the Council and by private developers, the clearance of worn-out houses and the repair and improvement of the town's older houses, all play a part in the effort to ensure that every family in the district has decent living accommodation suitable for its needs. The rate of clearing houses over the past few years has not been as good as hoped. A considerable advance, however, was made during the latter part of the year when Council accepted Health Committee recommendation's to increase clearance of unfit houses from 30 to 50 per year.

Improvement of Houses

During the year 53 applications for Improvement Grants were approved.

Repair of Houses

In 1970 the Public Health Inspectors and Technical Staff made 741 visits in connection with the repair of privately owned and tenanted houses. Informal and formal action following these visits resulted in repairs being carried out at 131 houses during the year.

The general picture of housing progress during the year is as follows:-

New houses built	-	28
Houses inspected for clearance & demolition)	Under Housing	97
purposes) Act or Public	21
Houses improved) Health Acts	131
Houses repaired)	

Housing statistics are given in Table. 4.

HOUSING
STATISTICS

TABLE 4

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Flats</u>
1. <u>Number of new dwellings erected during the year:-</u>		
(i) By the local authority	28	Nil
(ii) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	Nil	Nil
2. <u>Total No. of dwellings owned by any local authority, existing in district at end of year</u>		2,813
3. <u>Inspections of dwellings during the year:-</u>		
(i) (a) Total No. of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		610
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose		741
(c) No. of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit		142
(ii) Total No. of dwellings existing at end of year, occupied or not, which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which-		
(a) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made (at any time)		97
(b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made		Nil

TABLE 4 Cont'd

4. Houses Demolished:-

Number

Displaced during year
from houses to be
demolished or closed

In or Adjoining Clearance Areas:

Persons

Families

(i) Houses unfit for human habitation	34)		
(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	None)		
(iii) Houses on land acquired under S.43(2) Housing Act, 1957.	None)	89	30

Not in or Adjoining Clearance Areas:

(iv) As a result of formal or informal procedure under S.16 or S.17(1) Housing Act 1957.	None)		
(v) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	None)		
(vi) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	None)		
(vii) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	None)		

5. Unfit Houses Closed:-

(i) Under S.16(4), S.17(1) and S.35(1), Housing Act, 1957, and S.26 Housing Act, 1961.	Nil)		
(ii) Under S.17(3) and S.26 Housing Act, 1957.	Nil)		
(iii) Parts of buildings closed under S.18, Housing Act, 1957.	Nil)		

6. Unfit Houses Made Fit:-Number

(i) By owner after informal action by local authority	77
(ii) After formal notice under S.9 and S.16, Housing Act, 1957 - (a) by owner	Nil
(b) by local authority	Nil
(iii) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	54
(iv) After modification or revocation of a clearance order under S.24, Housing Act, 1961	Nil
(v) After determination of a demolition order under S.24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil

TABLE 4 Cont'd

7. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):-

	Number of houses	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1)
	(1)	(2)
Position at end of year:		
(i) Retained for temporary accommodation -		
(a) Under Section 48	-	-
(b) Under S.17(2)	-	-
(c) Under S.46	-	-
(ii) Licensed for temporary occupation under S.34 or S.53.	-	-

8. Purchase of Houses by Agreement:-

Houses in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed orders or compulsory purchase orders

Number of houses	Number of occupants of houses in Col.(1)
(1)	(2)
5	18

9. Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, and Housing Act, 1969 - Improvement grants etc.:-

Action during year:

- (i) Submitted by private individuals to local authority
- (ii) Approved by local authority
- (iii) Submitted by local authority to Ministry
- (iv) Finally approved by Ministry
- (v) Work completed
- (vi) Additional separate dwellings included in (v) above
- (vii) Any other action taken under the Acts, e.g. General Improvement Areas

No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected in schemes of		
Owner occupied	Others	Local Authority
3	5	-
3	4	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
3	3	-
2	1	-

TABLE 4 Cont'd

10. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Acts, 1961, 1964 and 1969 - Standard Grants:-

Action during year:

No. of
dwellings or
other buildings
affected

Owner occupied	Others
48	7
-	-
46	7
-	-
20	1

(iv) Particulars of any action taken relating to compulsory improvement of dwellings

None

11. Housing Act, 1969 - Special Grants:-

Action during year:

No. of
dwellings or
other buildings
affected

Owner occupied	Others

- (i) Applications submitted to local authority for special grant
- (ii) Applications approved by local authority for improvement by special grant
- (iii) Work completed

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Weekly collections of domestic refuse were maintained throughout most of the year and trade refuse was collected from commercial and industrial premises as often as necessary. Refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping mainly at Swan Road Tip. Regional schemes centred on Warrington, St. Helens and Wigan (all concerned with refuse disposal by incineration), and the County Council's Hey Brook scheme of controlled tipping, are proposed and local interest in the schemes is maintained.

The nine domestic refuse dumps which were set up in 1968 continue to be well used and to a limited degree indiscriminate dumping is reduced.

At the beginning of the year it was decided that work study consultants be employed to look into the refuse collection service generally. This was done in an attempt to provide a better service to the public, reduce costs and also to introduce an incentive bonus scheme which would benefit the collectors. Unfortunately, the scheme produced by the work study team was not accepted and negotiations are still taking place to bring the proposals to fruition.

SALVAGE

The collection and sale of salvage has again continued, although this has been curtailed temporarily during the year because of fire damage to the salvage shed and equipment. During the year under review, the combined weight of salvage collected is as follows:-

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qtr.
Wastepaper	34	16	8

The total value was £382. 15. 9d.

CLEAN AIR

No progress in cleaning "this most excellent canopy, the air" (to quote from Shakespeare) above Newton-le-Willows can be reported for 1970. Whenever we see this we should remember that Hamlet says rather more about the air than this. He says "this most excellent canopy, the air, this brave o'erhanging firmament, this majestical roof fretted with golden fire"- why it appears no other thing to me but a foul and pestilent congregation of vapours. This outlines the task this Authority must face up to. It must be our endeavour to ensure that the "excellent canopy" is not allowed to become a foul and pestilent congregation of vapours, and to do this we are going to have our work cut out unless positive steps are taken to establish further smoke control areas in the very near future.

TABLE 5
CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

(a) No. of orders submitted to Ministry during year	- NIL
(b) No. of orders confirmed by Ministry during year	- NIL
(c) Total no. of orders in force at end of year	- 2
(d) No. of houses and other buildings involved in (c)	- 534

Industrial smoke in Newton-le-Willows has become a minor factor in air pollution. Most factory boilers have been converted or replaced to operate with minimum smoke emission. Even so there is still need for continued observations to ensure that emissions are kept within the limits of the Clean Air Act requirements.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The poor standard of public conveniences in the town gives cause for concern.

In this matter we are up against the apparently insoluble problem of wilful damage, on which one can make no more constructive comment than that it is difficult to understand the minds of those people who cannot resist temptation to destroy, wantonly, anything destructible and publicly owned, be it flowers in the park or windows in the public conveniences.

A town the size of Newton-le-Willows ought to be able to provide at least one central attended modern public convenience with wash-basins, hot water, towels and toilet-paper. The present standard of public convenience may be as good as the vandals deserve, but the vast majority of the town's citizens and visitors are entitled to something better.

SEWERAGE

The towns sewage is piped by the Sankey Valley trunk sewer to Warrington where it undergoes purification to an acceptable standard before it is discharged into the River Mersey. Reconstruction of the towns main drainage system continued throughout the year.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Almost every house in the town has its own water-closet. There are five pail closets where connection to the sewer for one reason or another is impracticable.

RODENT CONTROL AND DISINFESTATION

The treatment of infestations of rats, mice and other vermin engaged the full time services of the rodent operative throughout the year. The rodent operative's visits are often followed up by a Public Health Inspector so that drainage defects and other sources of rodents can be investigated and action taken to have them put right.

Details of inspections and treatments carried out during the year are given in the table overleaf.

TABLE 6

RODENT CONTROL

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 -

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
(a) No. of properties in district	9,407	15
(b) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	402	-
(c) No. of (b) infested by - rats	248	-
- mice	154	-
(d) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	24	-
(e) No. of (d) infested by - rats	10	-
- mice	4	-

TABLE 7

SEWER TREATMENTS

<u>Dates of Treatment</u>	<u>Number of Sewer Manholes Treated</u>
15.6.70	65
23.11.70	67
	<u>132</u>

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

At the end of the year there were 180 premises on the Register of Offices, Shops and Railway Premises.

General inspections of 59 premises were carried out, 4 accidents to employees in premises covered by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act were notified during the year. None of these were serious.

TABLE 8

Class of Premises					
	Offices	Retail Shops	Wholesale shops, warehouses	Catering establishments open to public, canteens	Fuel storage depots
(i) No. of registered premises at end of year	35	120	9	16	-
(ii) No of registered premises receiving a general inspection during year	4	42	6	7	-
(iii) No of exemptions current at end of year:-					
Space (S.5 (2))	-	-	-	-	-
Temperature (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.9)-	-	-	-	-	-
Washing facilities (S.10)	-	-	-	-	-

PET SHOPS

Before these premises are registered, as they must under the provisions of the Pet Animals Act, 1951, they are inspected and the co-operation of the R.S.P.C.A is sought where appropriate. One pet shop is registered and is well kept.

FACTORIES

The Register of Factories, as required to be kept by the Factories Acts, contains the addresses of 52 factories. All are provided with mechanical power.

Most of the inspection and enforcement work in factories is done by H.M. Factories Inspectorate. During the year, 12 factory visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors.

The prescribed particulars on administration of the Factories Acts, as requested by the Department of Employment and Productivity are given in Table 9.

TABLE 9
FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) during 1970.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	12	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	12	2	-	-
TOTAL	64	14	2	-

TABLE 9 Cont'd

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.	
			Referred			
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-	
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-	
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	2	-	
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL	2	2	-	2	-	
(b) Part VIII of the Act - Outwork						
Section 133			Section 134			
Nature of work	No. of out-workers in August list required by section 133 (1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

WATER SUPPLY

Every house in the town has a piped supply of mains water supplied by the Makerfield Water Board. The water is derived from underground boreholes in the Newton-le-Willows/Golborne/Lowton areas. It is considered hard in nature and satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Samples of water are regularly subjected to full bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. Special examinations and analyses are made as circumstances require.

During 1970, 117 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination. Results showed that the water was of excellent quality; B.Coli being absent in 95% of the potable water samples tested.

No special action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination. From tests made the water was shown to have no significant plumbo-solvent action.

In 1970, 337 yards of 4" diameter water main was laid in the District.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND ORDERS

There were 25 licensed storage premises for petroleum spirit of which 17 were for private use and 8 were for the supply of petrol to the public.

No new installation was made and visits were for the purpose of checking that licensing requirements were being observed.

FOOD HYGIENE

Regular and frequent surveillance of all food premises is of paramount importance, particularly so in the case of catering establishments and shops which sell open food. In 1970 the Public Health Inspectors' made 750 visits to food premises. These included general inspections of shops, warehouses, restaurants, canteens, food factories, vehicles and market stalls as well as visits to examine unsound food, to sample milk and foods, to investigate complaints about food quality and for general registration purposes. Informal action again proved to be the most effective method of bringing about improvement in this field.

TABLE 10

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Particulars of samples taken during the year 1970:

Milk	-	18
Other articles	-	18

The 18 other articles comprised:-

5 Pork Sausage	1 Steak Pie
3 Meat Pie	1 Butter
1 Castor Oil	1 Pork Pie
2 Aspirin	1 Orange Drink
1 Yogurt	1 Fishcake
1 Vanilla Cake	

Details are given below of those samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:

<u>Description of Sample</u>	<u>Results of Analysis</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
Milk	Low in solids - not fat	Producer informed
Pork Sausage	Meat content 72 per cent, contained 100 parts per million of sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor cautioned re preservative.
Meat & Potato Pie	Meat content 7.5 per cent, should contain not less than 12.5 per cent meat or be labelled "Potato & Meat Pie"	Vendor interviewed & cautioned.
Pork Sausages	Meat content 70 per cent. Contained 65 parts per million of sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor interviewed & cautioned.
Meat & Potato Pie	Meat content 7.5 per cent, should contain not less than 12.5 per cent meat or be labelled "Potato & Meat Pie".	Vendor interviewed & cautioned.

TABLE 10 Cont'd

<u>Description of Sample</u>	<u>Results of Analysis</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
Steak Pie	Meat content 12.5 per cent, should contain not less than 25 per cent.	Vendor interviewed & cautioned.
Pork Sausage	Meat content 68.5 per cent. Contained 330 parts per million of sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor interviewed & cautioned.
Milk	Fat content 2.95 per cent. Deficient 1.6 per cent fat.	Producer informed.
Pork Sausages	Total meat content only 61.5 per cent. Should be not less than 65 per cent. Contained 340 parts per million of sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor interviewed & cautioned.
Pork Sausages	Meat content 72.5 per cent. Contained 340 parts per million of sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor interviewed & cautioned.
Meat & Potato Pie	Meat content of pie only 8.7 per cent. Should be not less than 12 per cent or be labelled "Potato & Meat Pie"	Manufacturers interviewed & cautioned.

TABLE 11

FOOD PREMISES IN DISTRICT AT THE END OF 1970

Type of business	(a) No. of premises	(b) No. of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16. (Wash-hand basins)	(c) No. of premises to which Regulation 19 applies (Sinks)	(d) No. of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19.
(i) Greengrocers and provision dealers	67	67	64	64
(ii) Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc)	9	9	9	9
(iii) Fishmongers (including those selling poultry game, etc.)	2	1	2	2
(iv) Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	15	15	15	15
(v) Bakers and/or confection- ers	9	9	9	9
(vi) Fried Fish Shops	16	16	16	16
(vii) Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc.	22	22	16	15
(viii) Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	56	56	56	56
(ix) Others	5	5	2	3

